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INFORMATION REPORT  
CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Peru

**SUBJECT** Methods of Peruvian Police Against Apristas

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1. The Odría government's police forces have been very effective in their drive against APRA's underground activities, principally because Alejandro Esparza Zanartu, Director of Government, receives all the money he needs to wage the campaign against APRA. Esparza has spent huge sums of money for informers (soplones), and to bribe and suborn Apristas who have become discouraged with the underground struggle.
2. In addition, the government has used ruthless measures against the Apristas. Source describes the following techniques as standard and current:
  - a. Surprise raids are made on the homes of Apristas. In these raids, searches are very thorough. Even furniture is broken up, flooring is pried up, and excavations are made in gardens, in an effort to find hidden documents or other evidence connected with the party's underground work.
  - b. Families of Apristas are constantly harassed and threatened.
  - c. Individuals who employ members of APRA are pressured into dismissing them.
  - d. Landlords, whose tenants are Apristas, are requested to evict them.
3. Apristas who are arrested are usually held incommunicado, and the following techniques are used to break them down and make them talk:
  - a. They are prevented from sleeping at night, being awakened at intervals and subjected to interrogation.
  - b. They are often beaten and manhandled.
  - c. Some are placed in small, dark cells without a bed or other furniture. At frequent intervals a bucket of water is doused over the cell floor so that the prisoner can not sit on the floor and must remain standing for hours at a time.
  - d. Others are given injections of barbiturates and denied food until they sign confessions.

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### Changes in Class

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4. Prisoners are sometimes suborned with offers of large sums of money and paid travel outside the country if they will furnish the information desired by the police. Others are persuaded to become government informers and are released. It is for this reason that the underground is always wary of Apristas suddenly released from prison.
5. Personnel of the Cuerpo de Investigaciones y Vigilancia (CIV) are promised bonuses and promotions for each arrest of an important Aprista that they can make. It is reported that the present director general of CIV, Clodomiro Marin del Aguila, received two promotions and his present post as a result of his effective work against the Apristas, which was climaxed by the shooting of Luis Negreiros Vega.
6. The APRA underground itself is said not to know the exact number of Apristas now being held in jail, because new arrests are made almost weekly and some releases are effected from time to time. According to source, however, there are over 1000 in jail. They are lodged in various penal institutions: the central prison in Lima, El Fronton island penitentiary, El Potao barracks of the Guardia Civil, the Cuartel Sexto, and other places. Many Apristas are also jailed in the cities of Trujillo, Huancayo, Cuzco and Arequipa. Most of the women Aprista prisoners are in the Carcel de Mujeres de San Miguel.
7. APRA political prisoners are accorded much more severe treatment than is given to ordinary prisoners. Many are allowed only one visitor a month while the ordinary prisoners can be visited twice a week. The Apristas are given little and poor quality food and are not furnished with bed clothes. It is the function of the "Social Assistance" section of the APRA to provide relief in such cases. Apristas are denied recourse to habeas-corpus proceedings and most are being held with no specific charge against them, except that they are Apristas.

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